

Appn No. 10/760,200
Amdt. Dated May 25, 2006
Response to Office Action Dated March 22, 2006

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REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

In response to the Examiner's Office Action of March 22, 2006 the Applicant respectfully submits the accompanying Amendment to the claims and the below Remarks.

Regarding Amendment

In the Amendment:

independent claim 1 is amended to specify that the printhead assembly comprises at least one controller for processing print data and controlling at least one of the printhead integrated circuits to print the processed print data. Support for this amendment can be found at page 27, lines 28-29 and page 28, line 14-page 29, line 9 of the present specification; and

dependent claims 2-7 are unchanged.

Other Specification Amendments

Page 13, 15, 17, 18 and 22 of the present specification have been amended to omit reference to Fig. 17C.

Page 1 and 2 of the specification has also been amended to update all our docket numbers with application serial numbers.

Lastly, pages 32 and 33 have also been amended to update application and docket numbers with application serial/grant numbers.

It is respectfully submitted that the above amendments do not add new matter to the present application.

Regarding Drawing and Claim Objections

It is respectfully submitted that the current drawings and description of the present application clearly illustrate and describe one printhead module comprising at least two printhead integrated circuits as recited in the claimed invention, rather than one printhead integrated circuit for each printhead module.

This is because, as described at page 6, line 19-page 7, line 10 of the present specification, each printhead module 30 includes a fluid channel member 40 which carries printhead tiles 50 having printhead integrated circuits 51 thereon, where the illustrated embodiment has sixteen printhead integrated circuits per printhead module, but other numbers are possible, such as two.

It is noted that reference numeral "30" in Figs. 1 and 2 indicates the printhead module as a whole, which as can be seen from Figs. 3 and 6, for example, incorporates a number of printhead integrated circuits 51.

Regarding 35 USC 102(b) Rejections

It is respectfully submitted that the subject matter of amended independent claim 1 is not disclosed by Silverbrook (WO 02/0766748), for at least the following reasons.

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As discussed above, independent claim 1 has been amended to clarify that the printhead assembly of the present invention has a controller which processes the print data to be printed by the printhead integrated circuits, not one which merely routes data to the printhead integrated circuits, as is the case with respect to the fine pitch flex PCBs 26 and flex PCB 17 disclosed by Silverbrook.

That is, as clearly disclosed at page 8, lines 11-20 and page 15, lines 7-9 of Silverbrook, the flex PCB 17 is merely a data and power connection from the main PCB (not shown since it is not part of the printhead assembly 10 but part of the printer to which it will be mounted) to the fine pitch flex PCB 26 of each printhead module 11.

Thus, it is clear to one of ordinary skill in the art from the disclosure of Silverbrook that the flex PCB 17 is merely a data and power connection for the printhead modules, similar to the flex PCB 80 of the present invention which connects power and data to the PCBs 52 of each printhead integrated circuit 51 (see page 8, lines 1-10 of the present specification), and not a controller which processes print data and routes this processed print data to printhead integrated circuits as required by amended independent claim 1.

Thus, the subject matter of amended independent claim 1 is neither disclosed nor suggested by Silverbrook.

Regarding Allowable Subject Matter

The Applicant appreciates the Examiner's indication of the allowability of the subject matter of pending claims 2-7 under the conditions stated in the Office Action.

It is respectfully submitted that all of the Examiner's objections and rejections have been traversed. Accordingly, it is submitted that the present application is in condition for allowance and reconsideration of the present application is respectfully requested.

Very respectfully,

Applicant:



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